

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 127310  
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W:BSKIRKPATRICK:IW  
APPROVED BY AF:WESCHAUFEELE  
AF/I:WLEWIS  
EB/IFD/ODF:JBLANEY  
D/HA:MBOVA  
S/S-O:AWOTTO

-----030441Z 043028 /21

R 022005Z JUN 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY COTONOU

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 127310

EXDIS - FOR CHARGE FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFEELE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, DM, US

SUBJECT: ABSTENTION ON IDA VOTE ON LOANS TO BENIN

REF: A) COTONOU 920, B) STATE 117008, C) STATE 109281,  
D) STATE 122029 E) COTONOU 941 F) COTONOU 226 S

1. WE ARE SENSITIVE TO YOUR CONCERN ABOUT BEING CONSULTED  
IN ADVANCE ON DECISION REGARDING BENIN. ABSTENTION ON THE  
IDA LOANS FOR BENIN RESULTED FROM DECISIONS AT THE HIGHEST  
LEVELS IN THE DEPARTMENT WITH INTERAGENCY CONCURRENCE  
REGARDING THE POSITION WE SHOULD TAKE ON LOANS FROM  
IFI'S TO COUNTRIES WITH POOR HUMAN RIGHTS RECORDS.  
THE KEY DOCUMENT IN ARRIVING AT THE USG POSITION WAS  
COTONOU 226 - HUMAN RIGHTS IN DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE  
RECIPIENT COUNTRIES. AS WE REQUESTED, THIS CABLE  
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WAS CAPTIONED AF ONLY, BUT WE HAVE MADE IT AVAILABLE TO  
THE DEPARTMENT'S HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS OFFICE. STATEMENTS  
SUCH AS "A SYSTEM OF SEARCH AND ARREST ON A MASSIVE SCALE  
FOR SUCH A SMALL COUNTRY" (PARA 6), "THE COTONOU BENINESE  
POPULATION IS RIFE WITH STORIES OF MISTREATMENT OF PRIS-  
ONERS RANGING FROM HUMILIATION TO PHYSICAL TORTURE",  
AND "SEVERE BEATINGS AT THE HANDS OF POLICE FOR THE MOST

MINOR CRIMES ARE COMMONPLACE" (PARA 8) WERE NOTED IN ARRIVING AT THIS DECISION. ALL CONCERNED ARE WELL AWARE OF THE DIFFICULTY OF DOCUMENTING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION CHARGES IN MOST COUNTRIES. WE NOTE THAT COTONOU 226 WAS DRAFTED IN YOUR ABSENCE, AND THAT SINCE THEN A NEW CONSTITUTION HAS BEEN PREPARED. YOU ARE WELCOME TO SUBMIT AN UPDATE, IF YOU BELIEVE THE SITUATION WARRANTS, WITH WHATEVER ADDITIONAL COMMENTS YOU MAY WISH TO MAKE.

2. IN THE FUTURE WE WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO KEEP YOU INFORMED WHEN DECISIONS AFFECTING BENIN ARE BEING FORMULATED.

VANCE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** HUMAN RIGHTS, VOTING ABSTENTIONS, DEVELOPMENT LOANS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 02-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977STATE127310  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** BSKIRKPATRICK:IW  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770197-1066  
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**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** 3ffb4086-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN SS  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** 77 COTONOU 920, 77 STATE 117008, 77 STATE 109281  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2300974  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ABSTENTION ON IDA VOTE ON LOANS TO BENIN  
**TAGS:** SHUM, EAID, DM, US, IDA  
**To:** COTONOU  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009